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(By Public Information Office)

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HIGHLIGHTS:

United Nations

Nafei lashes out on advocates for international intervention

(*AlAyaami* – 2nd Jul. **Khartoum**) President Bashir aide, Dr. Nafei Ali Nafei has reiterated that the Sudan government will not allow any foreign troops to set foot on Darfur.

He said however that the National Congress Party will continue dialogue with the other political forces in the opposition and does not peg such dialogue to their accepting the government stand on th position.

He warned however that the parties that support a foreign intervention in Darfur will “pay the political bill” but did not elaborate.

Southern Sudan

Uganda’ interior minister to head delegation for talks with the Lord's Resistance Army

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2nd Jul.) A high level delegation led by Uganda’s Minister for Internal Affairs is expected in Juba tomorrow to scout whether a common ground is possible for talks with the Lord's Resistance Army.

GoSS Vice-President Riek Machar said that the Ugandan delegation will first hold talks with the GoSS before sitting with the Lord's Resistance Army to find a common ground on which to base their talks.

DPA/Darfur

Sudan expels Chadian military from AU force

(*Khartoum Monitor/Reuters* – 2nd Jul. **Khartoum**) Sudan has ordered Chadian military personnel working with the AU Ceasefire Monitoring Committee to leave, the AU said on Saturday.

The AU spokesperson urged for the use of dialogue to resolve differences peacefully.

Around 30 Chadians were to leave Darfur, spokesperson Nouredine Mezni said.

Government hands the AU its plan to disarm the Janjaweed

(*AlRai AlAam* – 2nd Jul. **Khartoum**) The government has formally handed the AU its plan to disarm the Janjaweed as required by the DPA.

The head of the SLM-Minnawi delegation in Khartoum said that the AU informed them officially in a meeting yesterday that it has received the plan.

On his part, the SLM representative said that the movement has, on over 20 occasions, released the prisoners it had.

Other developments

African leaders confront Sudan, corruption and their role on the world stage

(AP – 1st Jul. **Banjul, Gambia**) The U.N. secretary-general told African leaders they are confronting "one of the worst nightmares in recent history" in Sudan's war-battered Darfur region, reminding them of the large challenges still facing a continent wracked by fighting, poverty and disease.

"The conflicts in Darfur, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, and northern Uganda continue to outrun efforts for a solution," Kofi Annan told heads of state at a summit of the 53-member African Union on Saturday.

Alpha Oumar Konare, chairman of the African Union commission, blamed rampant poverty for Africa's woes.

"There is no doubt that the conflict situations faced by our continent can be explained by its lack of development," Konare said, calling on African leaders to stand up to combatants who rape and kill victims he said are "treated worse than animals."

Annan said there had been progress in Africa, with AIDS rates dropping in some countries, investment up by 200 percent over the last five years and the gross domestic product of half the nations on the continent expected to grow by 5 percent next year.

But "let us not deceive ourselves," he said. "Overall, the number of Africans living in extreme poverty continues to increase. The spread of HIV/AIDS continues to outpace our efforts to halt it. Food security continues to elude us and the environment continues to degrade."

Annan pressed African leaders to ensure that profits from oil, diamonds are corruption free and make it to more than a privileged few.

On Darfur, the leaders were expected to press Sudan to accept U.N. peacekeepers to replace an overtaxed African Union force there – a move Sudan has so far resisted.

The African Union's policy-making peace council made clear this week it wanted the handover and refused to extend the mandate of African Union forces beyond September. The council also announced targeted sanctions against anyone who stands in the way of peace in Darfur